

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:MDROKEY:MDR  
APPROVED BY PA/M:CWFREEMAN, JR.  
S/S-O:LMACFARLANE  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION  
PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----162117Z 025828 /64  
O 161926Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOR CARTER--SECRETARY'S PARTY--FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT CHRISTOPHER S. WREN BYLINER NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 16, HEADED "SOVIET UNION SILENT ON CHANCE OF GAINS IN NEW ARMS TALKS".

2. ON THE EVE OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK IN GENEVA, THE SOVIET UNION IS MAINTAINING ITS LOW PROFILE ON PROSPECTS OF PROGRESS TOWARD A NEW AGREEMENT LIMITING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. THE OFFICIAL PRESS HAS SAID VIRTUALLY NOTHING ABOUT THE MEETING THAT IS DUE TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO, THOUGH IT TOOK MINIMAL NOTE OF THE TECHNICAL DIS-

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CUSSIONS UNDERWAY ON ARMS REDUCTION. THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER PRAVDA TODAY COMPLETELY IGNORED THE FORTHCOMING TALKS IN ITS WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW, A TRADITIONAL FORUM FOR COMMENT ON SUCH ISSUES.

4. JUDGING BY THIS AND THE PRIVATE REMARKS OF A FEW SOVIET INSIDERS, MOSCOW PREFERS TO SIT TIGHT AND SEE WHAT NEW PRO-

POSALS THE AMERICANS COME UP WITH, FOLLOWING THE FLAT SOVIET REJECTION OF TWO PACKAGES PUT FORWARD BY MR. VANCE IN MOSCOW LAST MARCH. ONE EXPERIENCED WESTERN DIPLOMAT SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN NOTHING SO FAR TO MAKE HIM THINK THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD ADVANCE ANY NEW PROPOSALS OF ITS OWN.

5. THE UNITED STATES HAD LOOKED TO THIS WEEK'S MEETING IN GENEVA TO IMPART SOME NEW MOMENTUM TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT A PRAVDA EDITORIAL LAST WEEK CONTENDED THAT IF WASHINGTON WERE REALLY INTERESTED IN DISARMAMENT, IT WOULD ENDORSE AN ARRAY OF EXISTING SOVIET PROPOSALS.

6. THE KREMLIN HAS MADE CLEAR ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO MOVE FROM THE ARMS AGREEMENT SKETCHED OUT BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF, LEONID I. BREZHNEV, AND FORMER PRESIDENT FORD DURING THEIR MEETING AT VLADIVOSTOK IN 1974.

7. IN PART, THIS IS BECAUSE THE SOVIET UNION PRIZES CONTINUITY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD BE PIQUED BY ALMOST ANY PROPOSAL MORE RADICAL THAN WHAT IT HAD ENVISIONED. BUT MOSCOW HAS ALSO FELT THAT IT MADE CONCESSIONS IN REACHING THE EARLIER ACCOMMODATION WITH WASHINGTON AND WAS UNWILLING TO SEE THEM DISREGARDED BY THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

8. SOME WESTERN STRATEGIC ANALYSTS SPECULATE THAT THE SOVIET MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WAS PERSUADED TO ACCEPT THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORD BECAUSE IT SET A COMFORTABLY HIGH CEILING ON THE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC MISSILES AND BOMBERS--2,400  
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ON EACH SIDE.

9. CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT WAS FRUSTRATED BY DISAGREEMENT OVER WHETHER TWO NEW WEAPONS, THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE AND THE SOVIET SUPERSONIC BOMBER CODE-NAMED BACKFIRE IN THE WEST, SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

10. AN AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL IN PRAVDA A MONTH AGO STRESSED THAT THE SOVIET UNION STILL FAVORS "STRICT LIMITATION OF LONG-RANGE CRUISE MISSILES." THESE ARE PILOTLESS SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT THAT CAN BE LAUNCHED FROM BOMBERS, SHIPS OR THE LAND.

11. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT ACCEPT SOME COMPROMISE ON THE CRUISE MISSILE. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, A FORMULA WAS ALREADY WORKED OUT LAST YEAR TO COUNT HEAVY BOMBERS CARRYING LONG-RANGE CRUISE MISSILES UNDER THE CEILING ENVISIONED FOR WEAPONS BEARING MULTIPLE WARHEADS. THE SOVIET UNION ALSO PROPOSED BANNING SEA-BASED AND LAND-

BASED CRUISE MISSILES WITH A RANGE OF MORE THAN 375 MILES.  
MOSCOW HAS GIVEN NO DEFINITE SIGNAL THUS FAR THAT IT WOULD  
CONSIDER A LESS ADVANTAGEOUS COMPROMISE.

12. ONE TEST OF THE SOVIET ATTITUDE AT THE GENEVA MEETING  
WILL BE WHETHER MR. GROMYKO RESURRECTS THE ISSUE OF  
AMERICAN FORWARD-BASED SYSTEMS--BOMBERS AND SUBMARINES  
STATIONED IN EUROPE AND ASIA WITHIN RANGE OF THE SOVIET  
UNION--AS HE HAD THREATENED TO DO FOLLOWING THE VANCE VISIT  
TO MOSCOW.

13. PRAVDA REPORTED LAST MONTH THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 800  
SUCH DELIVERY VEHICLES WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF SOVIET  
TERRITORY PLUS ANOTHER 500 PLANES ON AMERICAN AIRCRAFT  
CARRIERS.

14. MOSCOW MADE WHAT IT OBVIOUSLY FELT WAS A MAJOR CONCES-  
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SION AT VLADIVOSTOK IN AGREEING TO EXEMPT THESE WEAPONS  
FROM THE CEILINGS. IN RETURN, IT SOUGHT A HIGH LIMIT ON  
THE STRATEGIC WEAPONS THAT WERE COVERED.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009